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Atty. Dkt. No. 067183-0186

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Yoshiaki SHIOTA

Title: FAULT MANAGEMENT  
SYSTEM FOR SWITCHING  
EQUIPMENT

Appl. No.: 09/588,190

Filing Date: 06/07/2000

Examiner: Puente, Emerson C.

Art Unit: 2113

**AMENDMENT AND REPLY AND REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION**  
**UNDER 37 CFR 1.116**

Mail Stop: Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Final Office Action dated September 8, 2004, concerning the above-referenced patent application as follows: